

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LOME 00188 211857Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----211900Z 000395 /44

O 211730Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T LOME 0188

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DM

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON ATTEMPTED COUP IN BENIN

1. I SAW FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROUDIE THIS MORNING AT REPRESENTATIONAL FUNCTION AND HE TOOK ME ASIDE TO TALK ABOUT BENIN COUP ATTEMPT. HE SAID COUNSELOR OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN COTONOU HAD BEEN RELEASED BUT EMBASSY'S CODE CLERK REMAINED IN PRISON. I INFORMED HIM OF DETENTION OF CRO DAVIS.

2. ROUDIE ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT THERE HAD ACTUALLY BEEN A MERCENARY RAID. I DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY BUT SAID INSTEAD THAT IT APPEARED SOMETHING BIZARRE HAD INDEED HAPPENED ON SUNDAY, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE HARD EVIDENCE TO POINT TO.

3. I ASKED ROUDIE WHETHER HE HAD HEARD REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS IN BENIN/THE AFTERMATH OF THE COUP ATTEMPT. HE SAID HE HAD AND HE QUESTIONED ME ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE GPRB MINISTER OF INTERIOR. I SAID I HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT SPECIFIC EXECUTIONS. ROUDIE SAID THAT THERE WERE EVENTS GOING ON IN COTONOU WHICH WERE NOT YET VISIBLE BUT WERE LIKELY TO BE OF REAL IMPORTANCE TO BENIN'S

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INTERNAL POLITICS. HE DID NOT AMPLIFY THIS OBSERVATION OR INDICATE WHETHER THE EVENTS HE REFERRED TO WOULD MOVE THE COUNTRY LEFT OR RIGHT.

4. I ASKED ROUDIE WHERE THE ALLEGED MERCENARIES HAD COME FROM. HE SAID THEY PROBABLY

CAME FROM MOROCCO AND GABON (I PRESUME LATTER
INFO IS NODIS).
PALMER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DETENTION, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PLOTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaabacn.tel
Line Count: 65
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 370a61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, DM, FR, US
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